

STATE SENATOR • MARTHA G. SCOTT

Scott Press Release



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SENATOR SCOTT URGES LAWMAKERS TO SUPPORT CONTRACEPTIVE EQUITY LEGISLATION

Scott: Issue is one of civil rights.

LANSING - State Senator Martha G. Scott (D-Highland Park) today urged lawmakers on both sides of the aisle to 'do the right thing' in supporting her contraceptive equity legislation. Scott's bill (SB 431) requires employers who provide prescription drug coverage to include coverage for contraception drugs. Her remarks came in response to Monday's Civil Rights Commission declaratory ruling requiring employers to provide contraceptives as a component of an otherwise comprehensive health care package.

"Excluding women from this crucial coverage is gender discrimination in its most blatant form," Sen. Scott said. "The insurance system must allow women the freedom to control their own healthcare."

The ruling held that the Elliot Larsen Civil Rights Act "clearly prohibits" employers from excluding contraceptives from coverage, since to do so would indicate treating women differently based on their sex.

Scott's contraceptive equity bill, along with a companion Senate Republican bill, was introduced early last year. Both were referred to the Health Policy Committee where they both now reside.

"I am hopeful that we can expedite this important legislation through the legislative process and present it to the Governor for signature," Scott said.

Senator Martha G. Scott represents the 2nd Senate District, which includes areas of Detroit and the cities of Hamtramck, Harper Woods, Highland Park and all of the Grosse Pointes. She serves on the Senate Appropriations Committee.